

Torrance, California  
October 23, 1945

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, October 23, 1945 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: Powell.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held October 9, 1945 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held October 16, 1945 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication, signed by owners or representatives of ten business houses on Sartori Street and Cabrillo Avenue, was read, alleging that a certain taxicab company is doing business on the sidewalk and monopolizing the parking space in front of the various business houses referred to above, and asking that the Council take steps to alleviate this condition.

This communication was accompanied by a copy of a letter dated September 28, 1945, from Mountain View Dairies, Inc., (one of the signers of the first communication referred to,) addressed to Yellow Taxicab Company, Torrance, California, requesting the taxicab company to detach and remove the telephone from the building at 1407 Sartori Street, inasmuch as it was a temporary arrangement and the writer expressed the thought that sufficient time had elapsed to permit the cab company to find another telephone location.

Councilman Gilbert moved that, inasmuch as the Ordinance Committee is working on an ordinance to regulate the taxicab business in the City of Torrance, this communication be referred to that Committee for reference, and that the signers be notified to this effect. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Southern California Drilling Company, advising that the company has a Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance No. 1318 (N.S.) covering certain streets within the City of Torrance (map enclosed), and petitioning the Council for consent to have Los Angeles County cancel the franchise ordinance, inasmuch as the line has not been used for several years and has been cut and properly plugged.

A note from Engineer Jain was attached, recommending that the request be complied with upon submission by the Southern California Drilling Company of bonafide evidence that the lines have been abandoned and plugged.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that, upon submission by the Southern California Drilling Company of bonafide evidence that the lines have been abandoned and plugged, the request for consent to have the Los Angeles County cancel the franchise ordinance be granted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mutual Printing Company, requesting refund on unused portion of Business License No. 524, issued April 27, 1945 to Norman B. Whale, and used until October 18, 1945.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to refund the unused portion of Business License No. 524 as re-

quested. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, advising that the Torrance Model Automobile Racing Club had informed him that they have an opportunity to hold their national meet on the Torrance track in February. Mr. Riley stated that certain improvements to the track will be necessary in order to hold this meet and recommended that an appropriation of not to exceed \$500.00 be made for this improvement.

Mr. Riley further recommended that the City Clerk be authorized to sign a requisition for the Edison Company to install electricity at the Park, which will require an agreement that the City pay the expense of this work amounting to \$122.00 provided the service proves to be temporary, temporary service being based on a three year period.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$500.00 be made for improvements to the model automobile racing track as recommended by Mr. Riley, cost of the work to be divided between the Recreation and Park Departments. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to sign a requisition for the Edison Company to install electricity at the above-named track, and to enter into an agreement that the City will pay the expense of this work amounting to \$122.00, provided the service proves to be temporary, temporary service being based on a three year period. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

A communication was read from Simpson Scenic Studios, giving quotations for furnishing and installing a velour drape on the wall of the Council Chamber behind the Council table. Several samples of velour were enclosed, with the suggestion that the dark green would harmonize richly with the furnishings of the Council Chamber.

In reply to Councilman Cucci's question as to what purpose a drape would serve, Clerk Bartlett replied that it is hoped the acoustics will be improved and thereby enable those people in the assemblage to hear Council proceedings.

Councilman Cucci suggested installing a microphone system rather than spend money for a drape. It was pointed out that a microphone would not answer the need, since any sound reverberates due to the faulty acoustics, but that acoustical experts have learned that a heavy drape eliminates some of the echo by absorption.

Councilman Gilbert commented that the heavy drapes at the auditorium have helped this acoustical problem immeasurably.

Councilman Cucci still insisted that a microphone would be best.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$80.00 be made for a drape for the Council Chamber, to be installed on the wall at the back of the Council table, and that the color choice be the dark green velour, as recommended by Simpson Scenic Studios. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Clerk Bartlett read an announcement of the 52nd Annual Conference of International Association of Chiefs of Police to be held at Miami Beach, Florida, December 10 to 13, inclusive.

At 8:00 P.M., Mayor Tolson announced opening of bids for re-surfacing of certain streets in the City of Torrance as follows:

| <u>JOB NO.</u> | <u>STREET</u>                   | <u>LIMITS</u>                                   |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1              | Arlington Avenue                | Lincoln Avenue to Sepulveda Boulevard           |
| 2              | Arlington Avenue                | Border Avenue to 300' north of Dominguez Street |
| 3              | Andreo Avenue                   | Carson Street to 222nd St.                      |
| 4              | Gramercy Avenue - Carson Street | to 222nd Street                                 |

Clerk Bartlett proceeded to open and read sealed bids as follows:

| <u>BIDDER</u>   | <u>JOB NO.</u> | <u>UNIT PRICE</u>           | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Warren Southwest, Inc.<br>2145 East 25th St.<br>Los Angeles, Calif. | 1              | Mechanical Spreader, \$3.55 | \$2165.50    |
|   |                | Motor Patrol 3.50           | 2135.00      |
|   | 2              | Mechanical Spreader, \$3.55 | 1242.50      |
|   |                | Motor Patrol 3.50           | 1225.00      |
|   | 3              | Mechanical Spreader, \$3.55 | 2236.50      |
|   |                | Motor Patrol 3.50           | 2205.00      |
|   | 4              | Mechanical Spreader, \$3.55 | 2236.50      |
|   |                | Motor Patrol 3.50           | 2205.00      |
| Grand Total by Mechanical Spreader                                  |                |                             | \$7881.00    |
| Grand Total by Motor Patrol   |                |                             | \$7770.00    |

A certified check in the amount of \$1000.00 accompanied the bid.

|   |                                    |   |        |           |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------|-----------|
| L. A. Paving Co.<br>3700 South Soto St.<br>Los Angeles 11 | 1                                  | Unit price quoted same for Mechanical spreader & motor patrol | \$4.15 | \$2531.50 |
|   | 2                                  | "   | \$4.15 | 1452.50   |
|   | 3                                  | "   | \$4.15 | 2614.50   |
|   | 4                                  | "   | \$4.15 | 2614.50   |
|   | Grand Total by Mechanical Spreader |   |        | \$9213.00 |
|   | Grand Total by Motor Patrol        |   |        | \$9213.00 |

A certified check in the amount of \$1000.00 accompanied the bid.

|                             |                                    |   |        |           |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------|-----------|
| Griffith Co.<br>Los Angeles | 1                                  | Unit price quoted same for Mechanical Grader and Motor Patrol | \$3.40 | \$2074.00 |
|                             | 2                                  | "   | \$3.40 | 1190.00   |
|                             | 3                                  | "   | \$3.40 | 2142.00   |
|                             | 4                                  | "   | \$3.40 | 2142.00   |
|                             | Grand Total by Mechanical Spreader |   |        | \$7548.00 |
|                             | Grand Total by Motor Patrol        |   |        | \$7548.00 |

A bid bond accompanied the bid.

| <u>BIDDER</u>  | <u>JOB NO.</u> | <u>UNIT PRICE</u>   | <u>TOTAL</u>   |
|--|----------------|---|----------------|
| Sully-Miller<br>Contracting Co., Inc.<br>1500 West 7th St.<br>Long Beach, Calif. | 1              | Unit prices quotes<br>same for Mechanical<br>Grader and Motor<br>Patrol |                |
|  |                | \$3.85  | \$2348.50      |
|  | 2              | "   | \$4.00 1400.00 |
|  | 3              | "   | \$3.85 2425.50 |
|  | 4              | "   | \$3.85 2425.50 |
| Grand Total by Mechanical Spreader   |                |   | \$8599.50      |
| Grand Total by Motor Patrol  |                |   | \$8599.50      |

A certified check in the amount of \$860.00 accompanied the bid.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bids be referred to the City Engineer and City Attorney for checking and report at the next meeting, and that a list of the bidders, unit prices and total amounts bid by each company be furnished the Council members. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, advising that Mr. J. W. Crowther is satisfactory to the people of WALTERIA as their representative as a member of the Planning Commission, and urging that he be retained as a member of the Commission.

Councilman Gilbert stated that, in accordance with the suggestion of Councilman Cucci at a prior meeting, he had checked into the legality of Mr. Crowther holding the position as a member of the Commission, even though he no longer resides in WALTERIA, and had found that it is legal for him to continue serving on the board. However, he said, he had contacted Mr. Crowther and asked for an expression of his desires in this matter, as it has been impossible for him to attend meetings recently. Until a reply is received from Mr. Crowther advising whether or not he wishes to remain as a member of the Commission, Councilman Gilbert said he felt the matter should be held in abeyance, and suggested that the WALTERIA Civic Organization be advised to this effect.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Council, C.I.O., expressing regret that Mayor Tolson had not seen fit to deliver an address at the rally held in Los Angeles on October 3, 1945. It was stated that he had assured the committee which contacted him of his willingness to appear as a speaker.

Mayor Tolson advised that, upon being contacted a week prior to the rally and asked to speak, he had informed the representatives that it might be impossible for him to do so due to a business engagement. For this reason, he continued, he had urged that someone else be selected to make the speech, and had suggested someone from the Council or the Mayor of the City of Redondo Beach. However, he said, they had been anxious for him to deliver the speech and he had said he would do so if it were at all possible. Then, he added, he had learned that he had a business appointment with a gentleman who would be in Los Angeles only one day, October 3, 1945, which had involved conferences and a trip to Santa Ana. In view of all this, it had been utterly impossible for him to be present at the rally to deliver the three minute speech he was scheduled for, as he could not have been there and kept his business appointment also. He said he is willing at all times to deliver speeches when his busy schedule permits, but that it can be appreciated he cannot sacrifice his business in order to do so.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that Mayor Tolson reply to the letter from the Los Angeles County Council C.I.O., to which Mayor Tolson answered that he intended to.

A communication addressed to the Council, pertaining to the same matter was then read from United Steel Workers of America, Local 1414, demanding an apology for Mayor Tolson's to appear as a speaker on the rally program.

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Mayor Tolson declared that the demand is unjust and shocking in view of the facts. He said he had been perfectly honest in stating his position in the matter, and added that, in a democratic country, it is not customary for "demands" to be issued upon people. He pointed out that, outside the Council Chamber, and aside from his ordinary duties as Mayor, he is a private citizen and individual and no more subject to orders from one organization or another than any other private citizen. He reiterated his remarks that he is willing and ready to make speeches whenever possible. The accusations and criticisms are entirely unfounded and abominable, since the committee which contacted him was fully aware of the facts and, notwithstanding, had refused to substitute another speaker, he said. He branded this development as absurd.

Clerk Bartlett was asked to re-read the letter from Local 1414, which he did. Councilman Gilbert asked Mayor Tolson whether or not, in the interim of the rally and date of the latter, he had been contacted in any way whatsoever by the C.I.O., Mayor Tolson's reply being that he had not been contacted.

It was suggested that a copy of the letter from Mayor Tolson to the Los Angeles County Council C.I.O. be forwarded to Local 1414.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Philip H. Blake be employed as a mechanic, Grade A, Bus Department Garage, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$225.00 per month, effective October 16, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of \$52.10 plus tax, be made for miscellaneous repair parts for stock for the Bus Lines, from Crown Body and Coach Corporation. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci moved that \$76.28, including tax, be made for one generator exchange for Bus No. 102, two regulator exchanges for stock and Bus No. 101, and 10 ft. hose and six ferrules for Bus Department stock, from Crown Body and Coach Corporation. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci read a communication from Torrance High School, requesting use of the Civic Auditorium on November 16, 1945 at 6:30 P.M. on behalf of the Torrance High School Scholarship Society.

Councilman Cucci stated he had checked the auditorium schedule and learned that that date is open.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Torrance High School Scholarship Society be granted use of the Civic Auditorium November 16, 1945, at 6:30 P.M., and that the minimum charge be made. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci reported that numerous complaints have been received regarding busses traveling down Gramercy Avenue, as the street is becoming quite congested since the United States Employment Office opened at the corner of Gramercy Avenue and Cravens Street. He said a slight change could be made in the routing of the local busses which will have very little effect on bus lines operations.

Councilman Cucci moved that all local north bound busses be re-routed to travel west on Carson Street to Cabrillo Avenue, then north on Cabrillo Avenue, instead of west on Carson Street to Gramercy Avenue, effective November 1, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.



To Attorney McCall's suggestion that signs be placed in the busses calling attention to this re-routing, Councilman Cucci replied that the change is so slight that this will be unnecessary.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$775.00 be made for the purchase of white traffic paint for striping streets. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$400.00 be made for traffic bead binder for striping streets. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$830.00 be made for traffic beads for striping streets. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Gilbert read a recommendation from Mr. Dale Riley, Superintendent of Recreation, that an expenditure of \$75.00 be made for complete overhauling of Model A Ford Engine in Truck No. 15 used by the Recreation and Park Departments.

Councilman Gilbert requested that action be deferred on this, as he has some solution to this problem in mind and would like to confer further with Mr. Riley.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$210.00, plus tax, be made for pipe and fittings for the Park Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Relative to the street lighting needs in the Park Knolls Tract, Engineer Jain reported that the estimate is being compiled and it is hoped a report will be ready soon.

In connection with the matter of the 90-day permit granted to Mr. Reynolds to live in a trailer on Newton Street in Waleria having expired, and Mr. Reynolds still occupying the trailer, Engineer Jain said he had been given sufficient time, having lived in the trailer about two years, to start building the house he promised to build. Mr. Jain said that the 90-day permit was requested by him, after he had been informed that he would have to move out of the trailer, in order to allow him time to start the house. Councilman Gilbert said that it seemed Mr. Reynolds should either have the house finished, or started, or offer some explanation of why he had not lived up to his agreement with the City, as the permit to live in the trailer temporarily had been granted in good faith by the Council. Engineer Jain said he felt no further leniency should be shown in the matter.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the matter be referred to the Police Department for whatever action that department deems proper. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain reported he had investigated the complaint of the Waleria Civic Organization relative to establishment of a business in the old recreation building in Waleria, and had been informed that the building is being used for storage only. He added that this building is not condemned as was claimed by the Waleria Civic Organization, and that, from a point of structural strength, probably cannot be condemned. He said some other means of disposing of it will be necessary if it is to be disposed of.

He reported that the culvert requested by the Walteria Civic Organization at 240th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard has been installed.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that W. H. Deckman be employed as a crossing guard for Hawthorne Boulevard at 182nd Street, at the rate of 70¢ per hour, for a period of about 4 hours each school day, effective October 23, 1945. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Clerk Bartlett read a recommendation from Chief Stroh that extra men be employed for Halloween night, at regular pay.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the recommendation of Chief Stroh be complied with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Cucci moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to investigate the condition of the curve at Torrance Boulevard and Western Avenue and make a report at the next meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Graham called attention to the hazardous curve at Hawthorne Boulevard and 190th Street, near the K.N.X. radio station and asked that something be done in the way of posting warning signs.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the matter be referred to the City Engineer for recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Michaels of Walteria expressed appreciation for removal of a eucalyptus tree from his residence.

Mr. Plomert reminded the Council of the "Torrance Plans Ahead" function to be held on Thursday evening October 25, 1945 and extended an invitation to the Council and all interested to attend the affair.

Councilman Gilbert reported that complaints had been received that the trucks hauling to the pits on the Weston Ranch are dropping oil sludge on the pavements, and suggested that the Police Department be requested to investigate.

Councilman Hitchcock said that if the people filing the complaints would obtain the license numbers of the trucks, the Police Department would have something to start investigating.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the matter be referred to the Police Department.

Mr. Michaels volunteered the information that the company owning the trucks is the Vacuum Oil Company.

Councilman Gilbert withdrew his motion in favor of letting Clerk Bartlett furnish Chief Stroh with the name of the company for advice from Chief Stroh as to what steps should be taken.

Councilman Gilbert reported that numerous complaints relative to garbage collecting are being received. He said he is certain Mr. Green is endeavoring to give good service but is, undoubtedly, experiencing difficulty in obtaining reliable help.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. George Green, with whom the City has a contract for collecting garbage, be requested to meet with the City Council at a date convenient for Mr. Green, for a thorough discussion of the garbage collection matter. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Cucci, Gilbert, Hitchcock and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Powell.

Councilman Gilbert, addressing Councilman Cucci, asked the latter what shift he is working, advising that an adjourned meeting is to be scheduled, to which Councilman Cucci replied that it had apparently not occurred to the Council in the past to consider this matter in arranging meetings, and that it would be out of order to start at this late date.

Councilman Hitchcock exhibited complete surprise at this remark and advised Councilman Cucci that, on the contrary, every effort had been made to arrange adjourned meetings at a time convenient for Councilman Cucci.

Councilman Cucci replied that the last adjourned meeting, October 16, 1945, had been arranged at a time when he could not be in attendance, to which Councilman Gilbert replied that all five members of the Council had been present when the meeting of October 16th was arranged.

Councilman Cucci said there should be no necessity for adjourned meetings anyway, and that any business which cannot be conducted at the regular meetings should be transacted at special meetings, and was informed that there are certain classes of business which cannot be transacted at special meetings.

Upon motion of Councilman Gilbert, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. to October 30, 1945, at 7:45 P.M.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE